

CLAIMS

1. An ocular irrigating solution for irrigating the eye during surgery comprising a source of bicarbonate ions and a physiologically acceptable organic buffer which is an organic zwitterionic buffer having a buffering capacity within the range pH 6.8 to 8.0.

2. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1, wherein the organic buffer maintains the solution at a pH in the range 7.2 to 7.8.

3. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the organic buffer is a zwitterionic amino acid.

4. An ocular irrigating solution according to
15 claim 3, wherein the organic buffer is N-2-
[hydroxyethyl]piperazine-N'-[2-ethanesulfonic acid].

5. An ocular irrigating solution according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the concentration of the buffer is from 10 to 50 mmol/l.

20 ~~any preceding claim~~ 6. An ocular irrigating solution according to
sodium bicarbonate.

7. An ocular irrigating solution according to claim 6, wherein the bicarbonate source is preferably present in the solution to give a bicarbonate concentration of about 10 to 50 mmol/l.

8. An ocular irrigating solution according to ~~any preceding claim~~ *claim* which does not contain glucose, or any other energy source which tends to degrade at physiological pH over extended time periods.

9. An ocular irrigating solution according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 having been sterilised by an autoclaving procedure.

10. An ocular irrigating solution according to
35 claim 1, for use in a surgical method performed on the
eye.

